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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/821,004

04/08/2004

Thomas P. Adams

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EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/22/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@boylefred.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/821,004	Applicant(s) ADAMS ET AL.	
	Examiner JEFFREY A. SHAPIRO	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 and 22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-21 and 23-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/28/09</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 18-20 and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurwitz et al (US 2006/0106716 A1) in view of Jones et al (US 6,318,537B1) and further in view of Geib et al (US 5,977,395).

3. Regarding Claims 18 and 26, Hurwitz discloses loading batches of coins at figure 1, element (209), said coins having a plurality of denominations, into the machine from the user coin receptacle, i.e., a till, having compartments for receiving respective denominations and totaling amounts dispensed in relation to respective users. Hurwitz further discloses a machine that dispenses coins into a till at paragraph 52 and 126, dispenser, i.e., coin processing module (310).

Hurwitz further discloses receiving the coins that are fed into the machine and sorting said coins by denomination at coin processing module (310).

Hurwitz further discloses electronically controlling through controller (305), as illustrated at figure 3, a plurality of mechanisms that transfer coins from said bulk coin storage receptacles by denomination to corresponding ones of said dispensing hoppers for dispensing to a respective user.

Hurwitz does not expressly disclose, but Geib discloses a sorter at figure 11, that counts said coins and directing said coins to a plurality of bulk coin storage receptacles, i.e., tills (250) according to denomination.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used Geib's sorter in Hurwitz's coin processing system since Hurwitz describes a coin dispenser and Geib discloses a typical coin dispenser used to process coins to and from cash tills.

Further regarding Claims 18, 23, 24 and 26, Jones discloses dispensing coins by denomination from a plurality of dispensing hoppers (402a-402f) as illustrated at figure 21, in a machine to a user coin receptacle (Geib's till (250)) having compartments for receiving respective denominations and totaling amounts dispensed in relation to respective users. Note that Jones discloses user identification at col. 5, lines 25-38 and connecting to an accounting system at col. 13, lines 5-10.

Further regarding Claims 18, 24 and 26, Jones discloses comparing amounts of coins dispensed from the machine for the respective user with amounts of coins loaded into the machine by said respective user. See col. 2, lines 9-25.

Further regarding Claims 18 and 26, Hurwitz discloses comparing the first and second totals for the purpose of accounting for coins processed by the coin apparatus.

Further regarding Claims 18, 26, 28 and 29, Hurwitz discloses using a coin sorter/counter controlled by a computer with a program that balances currency such as coins entered into the coin sorter by a particular identified user with the coin dispensed

to that user by shift. See Hurwitz figures 1-4, abstract, paragraphs 100-142. A user is identified at paragraph 198.

Regarding Claims 19 and 27, note that Hurwitz' machine can (is capable of) be (ing) carried out simultaneously with the counting of coins being dispensed in an output operation.

Regarding Claim 20, Jones discloses dispensing hoppers or bags at figure 3.

Regarding Claim 25, Hurwitz does not expressly disclose, but Geib discloses a touch screen (74) at col. 4, lines 55-65.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated a touch screen interface into Hurwitz's coin processing machine as taught by Geib since a touch screen is a well-known computer interface that has predictable operation and results when substituted for a similar non-touch screen device. Also, a touch screen eliminates space required by a keyboard.

4. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurwitz et al (US 2006/0106716 A1) in view of Jones et al (US 6,318,537B1) and further in view of Geib et al (US 5,977,395) and Harris (US 5,067,928).

Regarding Claim 21 Hurwitz does not expressly disclose, but Harris discloses using a bulk coin receptacle, (70), to fill a dispensing hopper (56) when a low condition is sensed in the primary hopper, for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the machine, thereby reducing the need to replenish the machine and the cost of labor as well as reducing machine downtime. See Harris at col. 1, line 61-col. 2, line 35, which

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describes the problem of dispensing hopper depletion which causes machine downtime.

Note also that Harris discloses at col. 3, lines 10-33 that a set of sensors detect the levels of both the bulk coin receptacle and the dispensing hopper.

Such frequent refilling requires extra labor and reduces refilling.

Further regarding Claim, 21, Harris discloses a transfer mechanism comprising a platform (90), which lifts coins from the bottom of the bulk coin receptacle (70) towards the top opening (78a, b), where coins at the top of the column of coins are “skimmed” off the top by “skimmer” (116) which transports the coins to the dispensing hopper from the bulk coin storage receptacle by pushing them through opening (78a, b), as illustrated in figures 5-6 of Harris and discussed at col. 3, lines 10-33 and col. 9, line 56-col. 10, line 3.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have added a bulk coin receptacle and associated transfer mechanism to each of Hurwitz’ as taught by Harris, for the purpose of increasing coin storage capacity, thereby reducing machine downtime and labor associated with servicing the coin machine.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-9 and 11-17 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 18-20 and 23-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

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7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY A. SHAPIRO whose telephone number is (571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey A. Shapiro/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3653

January 18, 2010